



SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST PROJECT UPDATE

Printed quarterly by the Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor's Office

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www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw

FALL 2002

Cape Creek Road (1059) Decommissioned

This summer approximately 4.5 miles of the Cape Creek Road (Forest Road 1059) was decommissioned, permanently closing it to vehicle traffic. The work included asphalt removal, ripping the roadbed and seeding with native species, culvert removals, and removal of three concrete bridges.

The road had impaired the hydrologic function of the stream for years. Culverts were small and frequently clogged with debris, blocking fish passage and sending water across and down the road. Water flowing over road shoulders eroded soil, damaging the road and dumping silt into the stream.

This project improved stream function and aquatic habitat while addressing the safety risk to the public posed by landslides and windthrown trees. Access to the area is still maintained via Road 1057, which is primarily a stable ridgetop road that provides a safer route with minimal environmental impact.

Helicopter Project Aids Streams/Fish

A heavy-lift Chinook helicopter was used to place 850 large trees in streams within the Five Rivers, Deadwood, and North Fork Smith watersheds. The trees help restore natural stream functions that have been impaired by human, as well as natural events.

Large wood in streams is vital to the survival of numerous aquatic species including Coho and Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, and steelhead. These trees create pools, provide shade, and serve to slow water currents during high water events, which aids in the survival and growth of fry and smolts.

The project was made possible through the cooperative efforts of the Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mid-Coast Watershed Council, Siuslaw Watershed Council, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Columbia Helicopters.

Address, phone, and fax numbers for the districts are as follows:

Hebo Ranger District - Ph. (503) 392-3161 Fax: (503) 392-4203

31525 Highway 22, Hebo, OR 97122 Web Page: www.oregoncoast.com/hebord

South Zone

Waldport Ranger District - Ph. (541) 563-3211 Fax (541) 563-3124

P.O. Box 400, Waldport, OR 97394

Mapleton Range District - Ph. (541) 902-8526 Fax (541) 902-6946

4480 Highway 101 N, Bldg G, Florence, OR 97439

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area - Ph. (541) 271-3611 Fax (541) 271-6019

855 Highway 101, Reedsport, OR 97467

FISH & WILDLIFE

Moon Creek Restoration

Hebo Ranger District

T3S, R8W, S29

Install about 10 wood structures to improve stream function.

Scoping: Winter 2002, 2003

Decision: Summer 2003

Implementation: Summer 2003

Contact: Wayne Patterson, 503-392-3161

Miscellaneous Small Projects

Hebo Ranger District

District-wide

A five-year program of small projects including meadow maintenance and noxious weed control in urban interface areas.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Fall 2002

Implementation: Spring 2003

Contact: John Johansen, 503-392-3161

Karnowsky Creek Restoration

South Zone, Mapleton Ranger District

T18S, R11W, S22, 23

This is a partnership with Siuslaw SWCD, Siuslaw Watershed Council, OWEB, and National Forest Foundation. Final design, contract preparation, and implementation of an integrated valley bottom restoration project.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: July 1, 2002

Implementation: Summer 2002

Contact: Johan Hogervorst, 541-902-6956



Yachats Watershed Aquatic Restoration

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T14S, R10, 11, 12W; T15S, R10, 11, 12W

To enhance fish habitat, improve shading of streams, and to speed the development of large wood that could fall in streams, about 750 trees and root wads will be placed in about 15 miles of streams; about 75 acres would be planted with shade-tolerant conifer and hardwoods in riparian areas currently occupied by meadows, alder, and brush; about 100 acres of dense conifer near streams would be noncommercially thinned, about 40 acres of previously planted riparian areas would be maintained, and about 20 acres of existing natural conifer near streams would be released from competition with hardwoods.

Scoping: Fall 2002

Decision: Winter 2004

Implementation: Summer 2004

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

Lagoon Restoration

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

T19S, R12W, S33

Develop invasive weed control plan for lagoon and nearby lakes and ponds.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Not yet determined

Implementation: Not yet determined

Contact: Mike Northrop, 541-902-6960

South Jetty Noxious Weed Control

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

South Jetty Area of NRA

Develop noxious weed treatment plan including all options.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Not yet determined

Implementation: Not yet determined

Contact: Dan Segotta, 541-902-6980

FORESTRY

Precommercial Thinning

Hebo Ranger District

Yamhill County

Maintain growth and vigor by precommercial thinning of 10 to 20 year-old plantations.

Scoping: Fall 2002

Decision: Winter 2003

Implementation: 2003-2004

Contact: John Johansen, 503-392-3161

Yachats Watershed Terrestrial Restoration

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T14S, R10, 11, 12W; T15S, R10, 11, 12W

To speed the development of late-successional habitat in late-successional and riparian reserves, the project would commercially thin about 2,300 acres of plantations 25 to 54 years old. To accomplish this thinning, about 10 miles of existing unclassified (non-system) roads would be temporarily reopened and about 1.9 miles of new temporary road would be built on stable ridge tops. These roads would be waterbarred and re-closed or decommissioned after use. In commercially thinned plantations, the project would underplant about 770 acres with shade-tolerant conifer and hardwoods, inoculate about 7,000 trees to create future snags, and fall and leave about 15,400 trees to add to the coarse wood component. Adjacent to commercially thinned plantations, the project would top about 300 mature conifer trees in natural stands to create snags as mitigation for loss of large snags through past regeneration harvesting. In addition, about 1,425 acres of plantations not feasible or suitable for commercial thinning would be noncommercially thinned (cut trees will be left on site).

Scoping: Fall 2002

Decision: Winter 2004

Implementation: Summer 2004

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

RECREATION

Sand Lake Forest Lab

Hebo Ranger District

T13S, R10W, S17

Develop an environmental education trail on an isolated 11-acre National Forest parcel. Intent is to provide a short fully-accessible trail for all ages of students.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Undetermined

Implementation: Undetermined

Contact: Carol Johnson, 503-392-3161

Whispering Spruce Trail Reconstruction

South Zone, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area

T15S, R12W, S3

Reconstruct trail for accessibility to the West Shelter.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Summer 2002

Implementation: Fiscal year 2004

Contact: Margie Pace, 541-271-6072

Devil's Churn Phase II

South Zone, Cape Perpetua Scenic Area

T15S, R12W, S3

Construction of concession and information station, and new restrooms. Includes accessible trail from upper to lower parking lots.

Scoping Completed

Decision: Fall 2002

Implementation: Fall 2002/Winter 2003

Contact: Wayne Gale, 541-271-6080

South Jetty/Horsfall Entrance Stations

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

South Jetty and Horsfall roads.

Construct entrance stations. Includes construction of septic systems for a toilet in each building.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Winter 2002

Implementation: Undetermined

Contact: Tom Johnson, 541-272-6070

Sand Camping Site Designation

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

Motorized areas of the NRA

Designate specific sites/areas within the motorized areas of the NRA for dispersed sand camping

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Winter 2002, 2003

Implementation: May 2003

Contact: Sharon Stewart, 541-272-6071

Outfitter Guide Permit Re-issuance

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

Various locations on NRA

Reissue six outfitter/guide permits for motorized tours of the Oregon Dunes NRA.

Scoping: Complete

Decision: Winter 2002

Implementation: Winter/Spring 2002

Contact: Gina Owens, 541-602-6377

ROADS

Yachats Watershed Road-work Project

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T14S, R10, 11, 12W; T15S, R10, 11, 12W

To improve watershed function and reduce road maintenance costs, the project would decommission about 17.2 miles of mid-slope and valley-bottom roads. This would be accomplished by building waterbars, removing fill and culverts from stream crossings, and closing road entrances. The project would also close about 16.9 miles of road in the watershed. Road closure activities include building waterbars across roadbeds and barricading road entrances—these are generally ridge-top roads that do not cross streams and may be used in the future. Currently, many of the roads proposed for decommissioning or closure are inaccessible to vehicles because of down trees, dense brush, or the roads have been blocked with a dirt berm or gate.

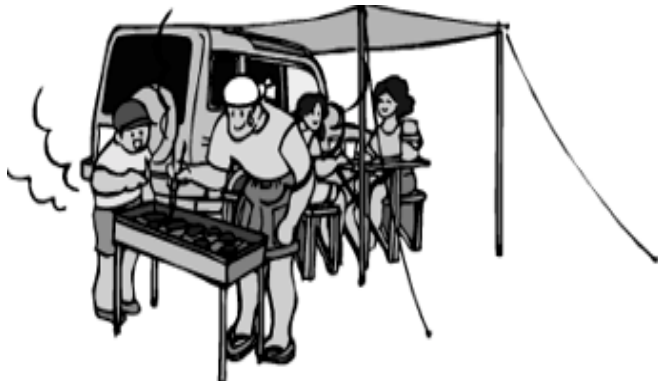
In addition, the project would modify the transportation system by replacing (decommissioning) 2.4 miles of road 5491—located between road 58 and road 5492—with about 0.5 miles of new road that crosses just one stream. This new road would maintain access for both Bonneville Power Administration and Forest Service. By decommissioning this section of 5491, which crosses several streams, road maintenance costs and sedimentation of aquatic habitats would be reduced.

Scoping: Fall 2002

Decision: Winter 2004

Implementation: Summer 2004

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211



ROADS

Moon Creek Road Decommissioning

Hebo Ranger District

T3S, R8W, Sections 19-23, 27-33
T3S, R9W, Sections 12, 13, 22-24
Analyze Forest Roads and identify roads that need to be waterbarred and closed due to maintenance concerns or unacceptable levels of risks to fish habitat.

Scoping: Winter 2002, 2003

Decision: Summer 2003

Implementation: Summer 2003

Contact: Wayne Patterson, 503-392-3161

Flood Damage Road Repairs

Forest-wide

Winter storms in February 1996 through winter 2000 damaged roads on the Siuslaw National Forest. Work includes culvert replacement, slope stabilization, debris removal, and geotechnically constructed fills.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Ongoing

Implementation: Ongoing

Contact: Marci Truhn, 541-465-6696

LAND EXCHANGE

Lamm Small Tracts Act

South Zone, Mapleton Ranger District

T17S; R10W; Sec 23
Involves well house on USFS land.

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: 2002

Implementation: Winter 2003

Contact: Mike Schwartz, 541-750-7175

MULTI-PROJECTS

Gauldy Project Thin

Hebo Ranger District

T4,5S, R9,10W
Develop late-successional stand characteristics by commercially thinning 1,000 acres in stands 35 to 70 years of age within LSR and AMA lands, add stream structure, and decommission, stabilize, or close specific roads.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Winter 2003

Implementation: Summer 2004

Contact: Brent Erskine, 503-392-3161

Lower Siuslaw Landscape Management Project

South Zone, Mapleton Ranger District

T17S, R9-11W, T18S, R9-11W, T19S, R9-11W
Lower Siuslaw Watershed
Plantation Thinning - 3700 acres of commercial thinning and 1350 acres of precommercial thinning. Thinning includes opening and re-closing 1 mile of classified roads and 18 miles of unclassified roads, and construction of .8 mile of new temporary road.

Road Management - Close 63 miles of road and decommission 14 miles. Road 2127 would be maintained for high clearance vehicles as an alternate route when county road 5110 (Thompson Creek Road) fails at a future date. Where road closures affect access to private land, private access will be maintained.

Stream Enhancement - Place about 625 trees and root wads along 21.5 miles of streams to add complexity to streams and increase spawning habitat. Plant about 60 acres of streamside meadows and alder stands with conifers and hardwoods

Scoping: Completed

Decision: September 25, 2002

Implementation: 2002

Contact: Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

Five Rivers Landscape Management Project EIS

South Zone, Waldport Ranger District

T15S, R10-11W
Thin and harvest about 3230 acres of 25-35 year-old managed stands, decommission about 49 miles of road, stabilize and close 77 miles of road, build and maintain a road to access private property, create and maintain 40 acres of meadows, add structures to 18 miles of stream, precommercially thin about 2366 acres, plant trees, create snags and down wood, and treat noxious weeds.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: 04/10/02

(Only projects not connected with commercial thinning)

Implementation: Begin 2002

Contact: Paul Thomas or Bruce Buckley, 541-563-3211

SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Reeny's Reserve

Hebo Ranger District

T5S, R9W, S25
Construct about 1,000 feet of temporary road through a 15-year-old tree plantation on National Forest land to provide access to Boise Building Solutions land. Also included are use of tailhold trees on National Forest land and use of Forest Road 2282 for timber haul.

Scoping: Fall 2002

Decision: Winter 2004

Implementation: Summer 2004

Contact: Brent Erskine, 503-392-3161

SPECIAL USE PERMITS

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Sand Dune Aquifer Investigation Project

South Zone, Oregon Dunes NRA

T24S, R13W, Sections 9, 10, 15, and 16

Project proposes to conduct seismic surveys in five locations to map the geophysical profile to identify any potential barriers for water production. Test wells will be installed to assess flow.

Scoping: Completed

Decision: Spring 2002

Implementation: Summer 2002

Contact: Shannon Souza, 541-266-0877

Miscellaneous Special Use Permits

Forest-wide

Water systems, road, transmission lines, road easements, minerals, commercial haul, tailholds, concessions and recreation events

Scoping: Ongoing

Decision: Ongoing

Implementation: Linda Montanez, 541-563-3211, or Nancy Craft, 503-392-3161

WATERSHED ANALYSIS

Twenty-two watershed analyses have been completed (about 95% of the Forest) including Nestucca Complex, North Fork of Siuslaw, Cummins/Tenmile (coastal stream watersheds between Cape Perpetua and Heceta Head), Yaquina/Big Elk, Mercer/Berry, Oregon Dunes NRA, Indian/Deadwood, Drift Creek-Siletz, Lobster/Five Rivers, Drift Creek (Alsea), Smith River, Yachats, Little Nestucca, Lower Siuslaw, Lower Umpqua, Sand Lake, Salmon Neskowin, Coastal Lakes, Beaver Creek, Lake Creek, and Lower Alsea. The analyses provide a better understanding of the aquatic and terrestrial environments within the watershed and reveal some management implications for meeting objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan.

The following watershed analysis is being completed or conducted.

Lower Siletz Watershed Analysis

Hebo Ranger District

Modify existing analysis done by the Mid-Coast Watershed Council to highlight road, stream, riparian, and vegetative conditions on National Forest lands.

Status: Start 01/2003

Contact: Wayne Patterson, 503-392-3161

FOREST-WIDE

Misc. Payments to Counties Projects

Forest-wide - Coos, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln and Tillamook Counties

The Siuslaw Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met on August 2nd and recommended 31 projects to be funded out of Title II funds in fiscal year 2003 (October 1, 2002-September 30 2003).

The Siuslaw RAC, formed as a result of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393), was tasked to select projects Under Title II of the Act for recommendation to Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor, Gloria Brown for final approval. Proposed projects include: noxious weed and invasive plant control, road improvements and maintenance, meadow maintenance, trash cleanup, hazardous fuel reduction, young stand thinning, and road signing.

Details about each project, along with meeting minutes and agendas are available on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw>.

For more information, contact Bill Helphinstine, Designated Federal Official, 541-902-8526, Linda Stanley, 541-750-7210 or Anna Morrison, 541-682-4203.



REGIONAL PROJECT

Invasive Plant Project

Pacific Northwest Region (involving 19 National Forests and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area)

The Regional Forester is preparing an EIS to amend Forest Plan direction that will enhance our ability to protect native ecosystems from invasive and non-invasive plants. The analysis will build on the Region's existing program by improving our ability to: prevent the introduction of invasive plant species; improve detection and rapid response to new infestations; control existing populations; and provide for restoration of native species and habitats that have been invaded.

Scoping is ongoing with a Notice of Intent printed in the *Federal Register* on August 28, 2002 (p. 55194). Public meetings are planned for Wenatchee (Nov.13), Baker City (Nov. 16) and Roseburg (Nov. 20). The Draft EIS is expected to be filed with EPA and available for 45-day public review in July 2003. A Final EIS is scheduled to be completed in December 2003.

Contact: Eugene Skrine, Team Leader, 503-326-4310

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/invasiveplant-eis



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SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST PROJECT UPDATE

This is the quarterly edition of Project Update notifying you of Siuslaw National Forest proposed actions for which there is an opportunity for your involvement. The list contains proposed actions and actions for which the analysis process is already underway. This update is provided to give you an overview of proposed actions on the Siuslaw National Forest in the event you would like to comment. Detailed descriptions of proposed actions can be obtained by notifying the “contact person” associated with the given project. In some cases, mailing lists have already been established for an action or category of actions. If you are already on a mailing list, you will be notified of scoping periods for those proposed actions. If you would like to be on a mailing list, notify the contact person by mail or phone.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for proposed projects and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who only submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets.

Proposed actions are grouped by category (Recreation, Special Use permits, Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, Land Exchanges, Watershed Analyses, Roads, Plan Amendments and Multi-Projects), and within each category in alphabetical order by Ranger District. The information provided for each action includes name, Ranger District, legal description of location, a brief description of the proposed action, and three dates: scoping, decision, and implementation. These projected or actual dates will be updated in subsequent quarterly reports.



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